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Charges of Cover-Up Bring Call for Shamir to Resign

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JERUSALEM, June 29 — A leading Labor Party minister called on Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir today to resign from the Government because of his reported participation in covering up the killing of two captured Palestinian bus hijackers by Israeli agents.

The official, the Minister of Health and a former army Chief of Staff, Mordechai Gur, made his appeal for Mr. Shamir to step down after a stormy debate in the Cabinet over whether or not to order a commission of inquiry to look into the role of Israeli politicians in the scandal involving Israel's domestic intelligence service, Shin Beth.

It was the first time since the Government was formed in September 1984 that a Labor minister has asked for Mr. Shamir's resignation, and it was indicative of how serious the Labor-Likud dispute is becoming. Mr. Shamir is to become Prime Minister again in October, according to his power-sharing agreement with Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

The Cabinet debate on the affair today was inconclusive, and Mr. Peres decided not to call for a vote on an inquiry at this time. A majority of Labor ministers support such an investigation, which would focus almost entirely on Mr. Shamir, who was Prime Minister when the bus hijacking and killings took place. Likud and religious party ministers oppose an investigation.

Immunity in the killings has been given to four members of Shin Beth, including the head of the agency, Avraham Shalom, who resigned. Investiga-

tors have accused the ex-chief of ordering the killings of the two captured bus hijackers, then covering up the affair with the help of his deputies. The Palestinians who died were cousins, Majdi and Subhi Abu-Jumas.

Mr. Peres apparently hopes that by deferring the inquiry vote for several days or more, he can give time for public pressure to build in support of the Labor position and thereby influence the religious parties — which hold the balance between the Labor and Likud supporters in the Cabinet.

"The facts speak for themselves," Mr. Gur said in radio interview about Mr. Shamir. "The person who was responsible for all of this from the start has to get up and say: 'All of the people connected with this have received judgment, and have been taken care of, and I, who stood at the head of the whole system, am leaving.'"

Mr. Shamir was quoted by Cabinet sources as saying today at the meeting, "My conscience is clear."

Officials close to Mr. Shamir repeated the Likud view that the Labor Party "is ready to sacrifice the security of the state in order to satisfy its narrow political interests and escape from the rotation agreement."

Parliament and Court Roles

The full Parliament will debate the matter on Monday. At the same time, Israel's Supreme Court will meet to consider four different legal requests by lawyers and citizens groups for the court to overturn President Chaim Herzog's decision to give Mr. Shalom and three of his deputies immunity in return for Mr. Shalom's resignation. The Labor Party's ability to force an investigation will depend in large part on whether or not the court strikes down Mr. Shalom's resignation-for-immunity arrangement.

Mr. Shalom has been quoted by two Cabinet ministers as saying that everything he did in the affair was done with the knowledge of the political echelon, meaning Mr. Shamir, then Prime Minister.